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18. (Once Amended) A method of detecting *Streptococcus* nucleic acids in a biological sample obtained from an animal [involving assaying for one or more nucleic acid sequences encoding *Streptococcus* polypeptides in a sample] comprising:

C<sup>2</sup>  
C<sup>2</sup> cont.  
(a) contacting the biological sample with the nucleic acid of claim 198 [one or more of the above-described nucleic acid probes,] under conditions such that hybridization occurs, and

(b) detecting hybridization of said nucleic acid [one or more probes] to the [one or more] *Streptococcus* nucleic acid sequences present in the biological sample, wherein the detection of said hybridization is indicative of the presence of *Streptococcus* nucleic acids in said biological sample.

Please add the following claims:

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--<sup>32</sup>263. (New) <sup>770</sup>A polypeptide produced according to the method of claim 234.

66 264. (New) <sup>770</sup>A polypeptide produced according to the method of claim <sup>65</sup>262.

C<sup>3</sup> Sub E<sup>10</sup>  
265. (New) The method of claim <sup>69</sup>17 wherein the polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 1 to 796 of SEQ ID NO:56.

71  
266. (New) The method of claim <sup>65</sup>265 wherein the animal is a human.

Sub E<sup>11</sup>  
72  
267. (New) The method of claim <sup>69</sup>17 wherein the polypeptide comprises an epitope-bearing portion of amino acid residues 1 to 796 of SEQ ID NO:56.

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268. (New) The method of claim <sup>72</sup>267 wherein the animal is a human.--

#### Remarks

Claims 17, 18 and 198-268 will be pending upon entry of this amendment.

The specification has been amended, to insert the claim of priority to Provisional Application 60/029,960, filed October 31, 1996, to correct typographical errors, and to reflect